



# NEWS RELEASE

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CALIFORNIA STATE TREASURER PHIL ANGELIDES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**TREASURER ANGELIDES, AUTHOR ARIANNA HUFFINGTON, JOIN  
SACRAMENTO STATE STUDENTS AND FACULTY TO SUPPORT CRITICAL  
HIGHER ED INVESTMENT AND OPPOSE PROPOSED CUTS TO THE  
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

*Governor Schwarzenegger's Budget Proposal Would Hike Tuition and Fees  
For CSU Students, Force Larger Class Sizes and Reduce Financial Aid*

SACRAMENTO, CA – California State Treasurer Phil Angelides, noted author, columnist and commentator Arianna Huffington and California Faculty Association (CFA) President John Travis – joined by California State University, Sacramento sociology major John Kincaid – led a forum here today with students and faculty to discuss the harmful impacts that Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposed budget cuts would have on students, learning and academic quality.

The Treasurer, Huffington, Travis and Kincaid joined with more than 150 students and faculty at the Playwrights Theatre to hear student concerns and answer their questions about the potential effects of the Governor's proposed budget cuts on the 23-campus California State University (CSU) system. The Governor's budget, when combined with current-year cuts, would slash CSU funding by \$541.2 million, or 20 percent, over the two-year period.

The Governor's budget would, among other things: eliminate state support for CSU outreach programs that help prepare low-income and educationally disadvantaged students for college; increase undergraduate student fees by 10 percent, and graduate fees by 40 percent; turn away 13,800 qualified students from enrolling at CSU; cut financial aid for lower income students; and increase CSU's student-faculty ratio, a move that would result in larger class sizes, fewer course offerings and the elimination of hundreds, if not thousands, of faculty positions.

"These cuts and fee increases not only hurt students and the quality of our colleges, but also damage the long-term economic prosperity of California," Angelides said. "CSU graduates are the backbone of our State's workforce, and CSU campuses pump billions of dollars into California's economy each year. We need to be finding new and inventive ways to prime this economic engine, not proposing short-sighted schemes to cut off its fuel supply."

Angelides and the others said the damage from those fee hikes and budget cuts are clear: students will have a more difficult time getting into already overcrowded classes, possibly forcing them to delay graduation, counseling and office hours for instructors will shrink and on-campus student jobs are likely to disappear.

“The Governor’s budget is unfair: It asks students to sacrifice and it imposes damaging higher education cuts that threaten our future prosperity without even attempting to close one corporate tax loophole or restore the upper income tax rates on the wealthiest Californians that were in place during the Governor Ronald Reagan and Pete Wilson years,” Angelides added.

Huffington asked, “How did we get to the point as a society where tax breaks for corporations and the wealthiest Californians are more important than helping our children get a college education? How many dreams have been eliminated as a result of these perverted priorities? I find it tragic – and deeply ironic – that we are willing to invest tens of thousand of dollars a year on a child who goes wrong and winds up in the criminal justice system, but we begrudge the far smaller amount it would take to maintain California's commitment to the education of its young people.”

And Travis, the CFA president who is also a professor of government at Humboldt State University, said, "Cuts of this magnitude in an institution like the CSU, with some 45,000 employees, could translate into thousands of lost jobs. We're looking at a potentially drastic impact on the families of those employees. And there is no plan for the impact on local welfare and unemployment services in our already strapped local economies." The CFA sponsored today’s forum on the Sacramento State campus.

Treasurer Angelides has been a leading statewide voice in opposing the proposed budget cuts to California’s first-class public university system. Indeed, today was Angelides’ second visit this year to the California State University, Sacramento campus to draw attention to the damaging impact of the Governor’s budget for higher education. In January, he met with students and faculty here at the College of Education, as part of a two-day tour of college campuses from Chico to San Diego. More recently, the Treasurer on April 14 led a delegation of visiting high school students from across the State to the Capitol to participate in a rally, meet with lawmakers and testify before a legislative committee to oppose the Governor’s plan to eliminate college outreach programs.

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